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Yucca Mt.. Site Characterization Office
P.O. Box 30307
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Los Angeles Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility and personal
comments on Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation

Dear Ms Hanlon:

Thank you for your request for comments on the PSSE on Yucca Mountain as
a nuclear waste and nuclear fuel repository.

It is unfortunate that all the parameters of nuclear waste management can
not be known. That means that all the projection of emanate scientists
cannot be certain or complete. This means that we are gambling with the
lives and welfare of future generations.

The present migration of water beneath Yucca Mountain shows that leakage
from any deposition of nuclear will occur in time. We can be sure of that
because of the radioactive tritium and chlorine at the site from above
ground nuclear tests.

We cannot permit the use of a site where natural barriers will not contain
the radiation for the safe life of the radioactive elements - ten to twenty
times the half life. The arbitrary selection of 10,000 years for preventing
the escape of the radionuclides as the upper limit of retention does not
coincide with scientific reality. The half life of many radio nuclides -
especially the nuclear fuel - go way beyond 10,000 years.

One of the unknowns now very much in our minds is the issue of terrorism.
We know from the World Trade Center calamity that the unexpected is to be

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expected. With all the transport of waste to the repository, there is great opportunity for the misuse of the radioactive waste by terrorists. Radiation terrorism is one of the most egregious forms of attack, far worse than bio-weapons or poison gas.

The very concept of a unitary depository is brought into question under these circumstances. Before a decision on the repository is made, further thought and time should be given for a safe solution to an insoluble problem.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Saxon, MD

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